(d) if so, to what extent it will be done away in the Budget?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Government have decided that, by the year 2004-2005, there would be a two tier structure for customs duties, namely, 10% and 20%. The existing rates would be adjusted and subsumed in these two basic rates with some exceptions on account of WTO bindings or higher tariffs for agricultural products.

**Regulation of professional conduct of auditors**

5016. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether post-Enron, in which the collusion of the auditors was established, Government are planning to effectively regulate the professional conduct of the auditors in India;

(b) whether Government would make it mandatory for the corporate to appoint an auditor at the discretion of its minority share-holders and not by the controlling group;

(c) whether Government would also propose that auditors should be barred from acting as consultants and from representing IT cases of the companies who are their clients; and

(d) the other measures Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (d) The required information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Financial crunch in States**

5017. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State Governments are feeling the financial difficulties as a result of not getting the anticipated amounts of Central assistance because of the slump in revenue mobilisation by the Central Government;

(b) if so, the amount meant for transfer to the States as part of their share in the Central revenue mobilisation, State-wise; and

(c) in what manner Government propose to financially assist the States particularly those facing acute financial difficulties?